

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PARK O&M

DATE: **APRIL 9, 2020**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MERLINO
 DICKINSON
 FRASIER
 MAGOWAN
 HOGAN (ALTERNATE)

OTHERS PRESENT:

VOTING MEMBERS:

 ROBERT BLAIS, MAYOR, VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE
 KEITH LANFEAR, VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE SUPERINTENDENT OF
 PUBLIC WORKS
 KEVIN HAJOS, WARREN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK, TOURISM
 FRANK THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
 MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
 AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
 KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BEATY
 BRAYMER
 DRISCOLL
 MCDEVITT
 SIMPSON
 WILD
 TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
 WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
 DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
 JIM LIEBERUM, WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the April 9, 2020 meeting of the Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2020/om/>

Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed". All committee members and attendees participated by video or teleconference, aside from Committee Chairman Merlino, Budget Officer Geraghty and Supervisor McDevitt who attended in person.

Mr. Merlino called the meeting of the Park Operations and Management (O&M) Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., at which time Committee member Mrs. Frasier, and Alternate Member Ms. Hogan, in addition to Committee Chair Merlino, served to make quorum. Committee members Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Magowan joined the meeting later.

Copies of the meeting agenda were to distributed to those present; those participating remotely accessed the agenda via the Warren County website. *A copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Kevin Hajos, *Warren County Superintendent of Public Works*, presented a request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$8,442.76 from Budget Code A.691.07, *Deferred Revenue - Gaslight Village*

Parking Fees, to Budget Code A.1625 413, *Charles R. Wood Park, Repair and Maint. - Bldg/Property*, and authorize reimbursement to the Village of Lake George in the same amount for post season turf management work completed in November of 2019 at the Charles R. Wood Park. He explained that a prior resolution provided him authority to approve reimbursements, however the amount of this request exceed the limits of that authorization.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Ms. Hogan and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the next Finance Committee meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes. Note: As there was no Finance Committee meeting scheduled before the April 17th Board Meeting, this item would not come to the Board of Supervisors until the May 15th Board Meeting.*

Moving on to the Referral/Pending Items portion of the agenda, Mr. Hajos advised he had been in touch with the three environmental groups involved in the conservation portion of the Wood Park (*also known as the South Parcel*) to see if they were open to assisting with creating a small retention basin on the County property to resolve the issue of the bordering retention wall at the Tiki Resort which was deteriorating, but they had found no solution yet. Mr. Hajos also apprised the Village of Lake George was awaiting bids for turf management services at the Wood Park for this season. Keith Lanfear, *Village of Lake George Superintendent of Public Works*, added one quote had been received and they were awaiting another; he advised the initially expected four bids, but two had been withdrawn. Mr. Hajos advised that once both of the anticipated bids were received, this matter would come back to the Committee for a decision. Finally, Mr. Hajos advised he and Mr. Lanfear would be meeting at the Wood Park next week to look over the playground equipment and determine what items needed to be replaced.

Proceeding to the Information for Discussion/Review, privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Blais, *Mayor of the Village of Lake George*, who began by advising he had received many calls from organizers of events for the upcoming summer who would be deciding whether or not to hold their events within the next two weeks. Mayor Blais said that many had questioned how their deposits would be handled if the decision to cancel was made; he advised most indicated a preference for their deposits to be held and transferred to a rescheduled event date, but there were a few organizers who said they would prefer for their deposit to be returned. Mayor Blais asked the Committee to make a decision on this so he could advise of same.

A discussion ensued during which the consensus of the Committee was determined to be that any deposits received would not be returned, but could be applied for rescheduled events or transferred to the next year's event. This consensus was formalized in a motion made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously.

Moving on, Mayor Blais apprised he had received requests from the two larger events held at the Wood Park, Americade and the Adirondack Wine Festival, for the County and Village of Lake George to waive or reduce their fees for use of parking lots and the Festival Space if they rescheduled events for later in the year given the extenuating circumstances. Mr. Merlino indicated that the County Attorney's Office had reached out to him on this matter in advance of the meeting to advise allowing such reduced fees would be unconstitutional and would be considered an impermissible gift, as it was unfair to allow reduced prices to some events and not to others; therefore, he said, this request could not be granted. Mayor Blais indicated he was not opposed to this decision and said he would relay the information so that each event could decide how they wished to proceed.

Mayor Blais advised he had received requests from organizers of events planned for later in the summer for hand washing stations. He said the Committee would need to decide whether it was their responsibility to provide them and if so, they would need to get pricing for these units. A brief discussion ensued during which it was determined that Messrs. Hajos and Lanfear would work together to obtain pricing information for hand washing stations which would be returned to the Committee at a future meeting.

Mayor Blais announced Americade was considering postponing their event until August 18-22, 2020 and would be making a decision on this during the coming week; he indicated that the Americade vendors were in favor of postponing. He mentioned that the Adirondack Wine Festival was also considering postponing their event until September 25-26, 2020, which was the weekend after the Adirondack Balloon Festival. Mayor Blais reported that the Tow Truck Show was cancelled for 2020, as was the Barbershop Quartet event.

Mr. Dickinson questioned the availability of hotels in mid-August, during the period which Americade was considering rescheduling for. Mayor Blais advised the Americade organizers were aware of this concern, but anticipated only half of their usual attendance which would likely fill out any remaining hotel rooms. He said the organizers did not want to cancel their 2020 event altogether and Mayor Blais said he agreed with this; he explained if the event was cancelled they could no longer claim this to be their “47th Annual” event and he mentioned that any event they could put in the Festival Space would be good for the region. Mayor Blais acknowledged there would be some challenges to holding the event in August, and they would likely have to cut back on some of their usual festivities. He said both events also had questions about their occupancy tax awards and he had suggested that they contact Mr. Dickinson, as Chair of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, with those concerns. A brief discussion ensued.

Finally, Mayor Blais apprised the Committee of a group that would like to use the Festival Space in the Wood Park for an Indian Pow Wow event over the 4th of July weekend which had previously been held in Moreau, NY for many years. He explained this event included Indian dancers and came with vendors who worked out of RV’s. As there was no camping permitted in the Wood Park, he said it was his understanding that the group planned to camp in the State-owned Battlefield Park. One concern he cited was that in the past this group had lit fires on the grass, which was not allowed in either area. Mr. Dickinson indicated he was not opposed to allowing the group to camp overnight, but open fires were not permitted. It was the consensus of the Committee for Mayor Blais to book the event, but to relay that no open fires would be allowed.

Ms. Braymer questioned wither Wood Park was currently open to the public and Mr. Hajos responded that it was not; he added that the bathrooms were closed, as was the playground, and signs had been erected announcing the closure until further notice. He advised that the playground area had been roped off with snow fence which they were fixing regularly as someone kept tearing it down. Ms. Braymer asked if the trails on the South Parcel were open and Mr. Hajos replied affirmatively, confirming that the walking trails remained open. He said he had visited the area a couple of times and had taken notice that social distancing was being practiced.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Merlino adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board